

### CLAIMS:

5 1. A method in a data processing system for managing  
information, the method comprising:  
receiving information from a plurality of users;  
storing the information to form stored information;  
receiving a request to remove selected information  
10 from the stored information from a user within the set of  
users, wherein the selected information is received in  
response to a transaction involving the user; and  
responsive to receiving the request, removing the  
selected information from the stored information.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving  
a request includes:  
determining whether the request is a valid request;  
and  
20 preventing removing of the selected information in  
response to a determination that the request is an  
invalid request.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of a  
25 certificate, a password, and a key is used to determine  
whether the request is valid.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected  
information is personal information about the user.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the personal information includes at least one of a user name, a user identification, a password, a telephone number, an e-mail address, a physical address, a social security number, a birth date, and a credit card number.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction is a commercial transaction involving a credit card number.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the request sent to the user is in a form of an applet requesting personal information about the user.

8. A method in a data processing system for managing information, the method comprising:  
    sending a Web page to a user at a client;  
    receiving a response, wherein the response include the information;  
    processing a business transaction with the client using the information;  
    storing the information to form stored information;  
    receiving a request to remove the stored information; and  
    removing the stored information in response to receiving the request.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the request is received after retaining the stored information is unnecessary to the business transaction.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the business transaction is a purchase of an item using a credit card.

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11. A distributed data processing system comprising:  
a network;  
a plurality of clients connected to the network; and  
a server connected to the network, wherein the  
5 server receives information from the plurality of clients  
in which the information is received in association with  
serving Web pages and receiving the information in  
response to serving the Web pages, stores the information  
to form stored information, receives a request from a  
10 client within the plurality of clients to discard a  
portion of the information from the stored information,  
removing the portions of the information from the stored  
information in response to receiving the request.
12. A data processing system comprising:  
a bus system;  
a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the  
memory includes a set of instructions; and  
20 a processing unit connected to the bus system,  
wherein the processing unit executes the set of  
instructions to receive information from a plurality of  
users; store the information to form stored information;  
receive a request to remove selected information from the  
25 stored information from a user within the set of users,  
wherein the selected information is received in response  
to a transaction involving the user; and remove the  
selected information from the stored information in  
response to receiving the request.

"0546US1" 09/11/92

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13. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the

5 memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system,

wherein the processing unit executes the set of

instructions to send a Web page to a user at a client;

receive a response, wherein the response include the

10 information; process a business transaction with the

client using the information; store the information to

form stored information; receive a request to remove the

stored information; and remove the stored information in

response to receiving the request.

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14. A data processing system for managing information,  
the data processing system comprising:

first receiving means for receiving information from  
a plurality of users;

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storing means for storing the information to form  
stored information;

second receiving means for receiving a request to  
remove selected information from the stored information  
from a user within the set of users, wherein the selected

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information is received in response to a transaction  
involving the user; and

removing means for responsive to receiving the  
request, removing the selected information from the  
stored information.

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15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the second receiving means includes:

5 means for preventing removing of the selected  
information in response to a determination that the  
request is an invalid request.

17. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the selected information is personal information about the user.

19. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the transaction is a commercial transaction involving a credit card number.

20. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the request sent to the user is in a form of an applet requesting personal information about the user.

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21. A data processing system for managing information,  
the data processing system comprising:

sending means for sending a Web page to a user at a  
client;

5 first receiving means for receiving a response,  
wherein the response include the information;

processing means for processing a business  
transaction with the client using the information;

10 storing means for storing the information to form  
stored information;

second receiving means for receiving a request to  
remove the stored information; and

removing means for removing the stored information  
in response to receiving the request.

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22. The method of claim 21, wherein the request is  
received after retaining the stored information is  
unnecessary to the business transaction.

20 23. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the  
business transaction is a purchase of an item using a  
credit card.

24. A computer program product in a computer readable  
25 medium for managing information, the computer program  
product comprising:

first instructions for receiving information from a  
plurality of users;

30 second instructions for storing the information to  
form stored information;

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fourth instructions, responsive to receiving the request, for removing the selected information from the stored information.

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    first instructions for sending a Web page to a user
at a client;

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third instructions for processing a business transaction with the client using the information;

fifth instructions for receiving a request to remove the stored information; and

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the request is received after retaining the stored the information unnecessary to the business transaction.